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Applicant cancels claims 2, 7, 12, and 16. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17 remain pending in the application. Claims 3 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicant amends claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13, 15, and 17 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the priority claim of the application.

Claims 2, 4-5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Applicant cancels claims 2 and 7, and amends claims 4-5 to clearly recite "the first communications device" in correspondence with the features recited in base claim 1 from which they depend. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

Claims 1-2, 6-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129165 to Dingsor et al.; and claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dingsor et al. Applicant amends claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13, 15, and 17 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner maintained the claim rejections by apparently inferring, from the description in Dingsor et al. of "translation instructions" from the NAT machine 100 to server 200 that include "IP source address (NAT Machine IP address)," the feature of the server 200

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translating the source address of a response packet sent directly to the client device to the "IP

source address (NAT Machine IP address)." Paragraph [0020] of Dingsor et al.

Fig. 4 of Dingsor et al. illustrates a packet transmitted from a client device 30 being translated in a NAT machine 100 and transmitted to a server 200, and a response packet is transmitted from the server 200 directly to the client device 30. Paragraph [0028] of Dingsor et al. further includes description that, in order to transmit the response packet directly to the client, the IP address and port of the client are associated with the IP address and port of the NAT machine 100 and provided for the server 200 as the translation instructions.

Thus, Dingsor et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, only describe translation between a NAT machine 100 and a server 200, and fail to disclose,

"[a] first communications device for use in a communications system with a second communications device that is an original destination of a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and the first communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, the first communications device comprising:

a receiving unit receiving communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

an acquisition unit obtaining an original destination address of the communications data from the destination address modification device;

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of response data in response to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, to the original destination address obtained by the acquisition unit; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data with the source address modified by the source address modification unit directly to the client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device," as recited in claim 1.

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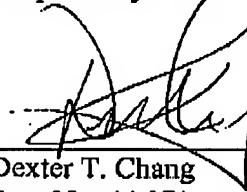
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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, together with claims 4-5 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Dingsor et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 6, 10, 13, 15, and 17 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, together with claims 8-9 and 11 dependent therefrom, respectively, patentable over Dingsor et al. for at least the same reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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